State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Nomination for Waters Important to Anadromous Fish

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MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

To:

Al Ott, Regional Supervisor

Date:

October 10, 1994

Habitat and Restoration Division

Department of Fish and Game

File No:

Telephone Number:

451-6192

Al Townsend, Habitat Biologist III Subject:

SEE BELOW

Habitat and Restoration Division Department of Fish and Game

Anadromous Fish Streams, Nenana River RE:

On October 6, 1994, Bill Busher and I conducted foot surveys for spawning chum and coho salmon in the following Nenana River tributaries:

June Creek:

371 live coho salmon 37 dead coho salmon 37 dead chum salmon

Quarter Pup Creek (no official name, spring-fed 1/4 mile long tributary to June Creek, 100 yards upstream from Bear Creek)

> 17 live coho salmon 7 dead coho salmon 4 dead chum salmon

Lignite Spring Creek

225 live coho salmon 19 dead coho salmon I dead chum salmon

K-dog Creek (no official name, spring-fed 1/4 mile long, tributary to Lignite Spring Creek)

> 7 live coho salmon 1 dead coho salmon

Panguingue Creek

45 live coho salmon 5 dead coho salmon

Mercer Springs Creek (completely blocked at Nenana River by extensive beaver dam complex, no fish seen)

The upstream distribution of coho salmon was limited by beaver dams in June Creek, Lignite Springs Creek, Mercer Creek, and Panguingue Creek. Coho salmon were present for approximately 1/2 mile above the Parks Highway in June Creek. A five to six foot high beaver dam prevented fish from passing above this point in June Creek.

Al Townsend 2 October 10, 1994 (Anadromous Fish Streams, Nenana River)

Adult coho salmon were present (15 observed) in the first beaver pond above the Alaska Railroad Crossing in Lignite Springs Creek. Additional beaver dams are present above this reach but time prohibited us from seeking private property owners permission to check further upstream. These dams, as could be seen from the road, appeared to as large or larger than the June Creek barrier beaver dam.

Mercer Creek flows into the Nenana River through numerous (10 or more) overflows on an extensive beaver dam complex. These flows cascade over an eight to ten foot high Nenana River cutbank and fish passage is unlikely.

Two large five to six foot high beaver dams about 100 yards from the mouth of Panguingue Creek appear to block all upstream movement of fish. Salmon were not observed above these dams.

cc: Fred Andersen, ADF&G, Fairbanks
Keith Schultz, ADF&G, Fairbanks
Bill Busher, ADF&G, Fairbanks
Denis Fox, ADOT&PF, Fairbanks

AHT/ago

